



Security Council

Distr.: General
29 October 2003

Original: English

**Letter dated 14 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
to the United Nations addressed to the President of the
Security Council**

I enclose the assessment of the United Kingdom presidency of the Security Council for September 2003 (see annex). This has been prepared on my own authority, but I have consulted other members of the Security Council before submitting it. I should be grateful if you would circulate it as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Emyr Jones Parry



Annex

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (September 2003)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Security Council fulfilled a busy programme in September. During the month, the Council established the United Nations Mission in Liberia to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed at Accra, lifted the sanctions on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and extended the mandates of UNMEE and UNAMSIL.

The Council met at ministerial level on 24 September to consider the item entitled "Justice and the rule of law: the United Nations role". The meeting was presided over by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Jack Straw, and by the Minister of State for International Development, Hilary Benn. The presidency's aim in bringing the subject to the Council, was to affirm the central importance of justice and the rule of law in the work of the United Nations and to begin a process of reflection and analysis on those issues, involving the whole United Nations system, so that the experience and expertise available in the international system could be drawn on more effectively in the future.

Africa

Burundi

The President of Burundi, Domitien Ndayizeye, addressed a private meeting of the Security Council on 22 September on developments in Burundi and on the regional summit of 15 September.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The members of the Security Council were briefed on 3 September by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on the handover from the European Union-led Interim Emergency Multinational Force in Bunia to a strengthened MONUC force. Full deployment of the Ituri brigade was due to take place by the end of October, after which MONUC would be in a position to reach out beyond Bunia. The Council members agreed on a statement to the press expressing concern at continuing hostilities in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, calling on all parties to support MONUC, and stressing the robust nature of the mandate of MONUC under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

Ethiopia and Eritrea

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Ethiopia and Eritrea, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, briefed the members of the Security Council on 10 September on the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The Council subsequently adopted resolution 1507 (2003), extending the mandate of UNMEE for a further six months, until 15 March 2004. On 29 September, the Council members discussed a

letter dated 19 September from the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, to the President of the Security Council, and heard a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on letters received by the Secretary-General from the leaders of the two countries.

Guinea-Bissau

On 15 September the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kolomoh, briefed the members of the Security Council on the coup d'état of 14 September in Guinea-Bissau. The Council members agreed on a statement to the press condemning the assumption of power through non-constitutional means and calling for the speedy restoration of constitutional order. On 29 September the Assistant Secretary-General updated the Council, and José Ramos Horta, Special Envoy of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking States, briefed the members on his visit to Guinea-Bissau. The members of the Council commended the continuing efforts of ECOWAS, the Community of Portuguese-Speaking States and the United Nations to keep the electoral process on track.

Liberia

On 16 September the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, Jacques Klein, briefed the Security Council on the situation in that country. Informal consultations followed, during which the Council members discussed the Secretary-General's recommendation to establish a United Nations mission. The Council held a private meeting on 15 September with Member States on the subject of possible troop contributions. The Council members also discussed the way forward with a range of non-governmental organizations on 9 September at an Arria-formula meeting.

After these preparatory discussions, the Security Council on 19 September in the presence of the Secretary-General unanimously adopted resolution 1509 (2003), by which it established the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for 12 months to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed at Accra.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

On 9 September the members of the Security Council considered the question of lifting sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which had been suspended in 1999 following the handover by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya of two suspects to stand trial for the bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie in December 1988. Later on the same day the Council formally agreed to delay its decision on the lifting of sanctions until 12 September. On 12 September the Security Council adopted resolution 1506 (2003) lifting the sanctions and removing the item from its agenda.

Sierra Leone

The Security Council held a private meeting on 16 September with countries contributing troops to UNAMSIL. The Council members were briefed on 17 October by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi. They discussed the drawdown of UNAMSIL and progress against the benchmarks for this. The Council on 19 September in the presence of the Secretary-

General unanimously adopted resolution 1508 (2003), by which it extended the mandate of UNAMSIL for six months, until 30 March 2004.

Asia

Iraq

On 5 September the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, announced to the members of the Security Council a retrenchment of the United Nations presence in Iraq in the light of the bombing on 19 August of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad. He said that the United Nations would keep the decision under review and return staff when the security situation permitted. The Council members expressed their understanding of the Secretariat's position.

Oil-for-food programme

The members of the Security Council were briefed on 29 September by the Executive Director of the Iraq Programme, Benon Sevan, on preparations for the termination of the oil-for-food programme by 21 November. They agreed that the Iraq sanctions Committee should monitor developments closely, and that the Chairman should report regularly on the Committee's discussions.

UNMOVIC

The Acting Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Demetrios Perricos, briefed the members of the Security Council on 4 September on the work of UNMOVIC. The Council members expressed their support for the work of UNMOVIC as set out in its fourteenth quarterly report, and noted the need to review its mandate in due course. They expressed interest in being kept informed of the work of the Iraq Survey Group.

Middle East

On 12 September the Sudan, on behalf of the Arab Group and the States members of the League of Arab States, requested an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider Israel's decision "in principle" to remove President Arafat from the occupied territories. The Sudan circulated a draft resolution (S/2003/891) for the consideration of the Council members. The members of the Council met on 12 September, agreed on a statement to the press setting out their concerns at Israel's decision, and scheduled an open meeting for 15 September. The Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Terje Roed-Larsen, opened the meeting on 15 September with a briefing. More than 40 delegations spoke against Israel's decision to remove President Arafat.

The Council members held further informal consultations on the draft resolution on 15 and 16 September but were unable to reach consensus. The resolution was put to a vote by its sponsors on 16 September but was not adopted because of the negative vote of a permanent member.

Europe

Kosovo and Serbia and Montenegro

On 12 September, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Security Council on the situation in Kosovo and the activities of UNMIK. Speakers expressed their support for the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo, Harri Holkeri, reaffirmed resolution 1244 (1999) as the basis for policy in the region, encouraged an early launch of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue and condemned the recent upsurge in violence.

Other issues

International Tribunals

On 4 September, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1504 (2003), by which it appointed Carla Del Ponte as Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for four years from 15 September 2003, and resolution 1505 (2003), by which it appointed Hassan Bubacar Jallow as Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for Rwanda for the same period, from the same date.

Justice and the rule of law: the United Nations role

The ministerial-level meeting of the Council on 24 September to consider the item entitled "Justice and the rule of law: the United Nations role" was addressed by Ministers for Foreign Affairs from 10 Council members. The Secretary-General offered to provide a report to guide and inform the Council's further deliberations. At the end of the meeting, the Ministers reaffirmed the vital importance of these issues in a presidential statement (S/PRST/2003/15).

A further meeting on the same subject was held on 30 September to give non-members of the Council an opportunity to contribute to the discussion. Twenty-five Member States made statements, as did the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, and the Legal Counsel, Hans Corell.

Annual report of the Security Council

On 19 September the Security Council adopted its annual report for the period from 1 August 2002 to 31 July 2003 and forwarded it to the General Assembly.